

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 66-80 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants amend claim 1. The Examiner asserts that claims 12-15, 17, 66-80 are allowed.

Claim rejections

Claims 1-11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bender in view of Robbins and Patel et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2006/0126536; hereinafter “Patel”). Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “said wireless network is operated by a plurality of virtual operators and access to services provided by each of the virtual operators is supported by using multiprotocol label switching.” The Examiner concedes that Bender and Robbins do not disclose these elements of claim 1. However, the Examiner asserts that Patel allegedly discloses the elements missing in Bender and Robbins. Applicants respectfully disagree for at least the following reasons.

Patel is directed to a method and system for configuring wireless routers and networks. Patel discloses wireless routers 30, each of which are connected to at least one wireline router 20. Since there is no direct connection between the wireless routers 30 and the RF physical medium, Patel discloses that the communication between the wireless routers 30 is conducted over the wireline paths 22. The connectivity between wireless routers 30 is established by identifying the neighboring wireless routers 30 and configuring the wireless routers 30 with that information. In addition, multiple protocol label switch (MPLS) paths may be established between the

neighboring wireless routers 30 (paragraph [0072]). However, Patel does not disclose that access to services provided by each of the virtual operators is supported by using multiprotocol label switching.

In particular, Patel merely discloses that multiple protocol label switch (MPLS) paths may be established between the neighboring wireless routers 30. However, MPLS paths established **between neighboring routers** does not disclose access to services provided by each of the virtual operators being supported by using multiprotocol label switching. In fact, Patel does not even disclose that the wireless network is operated by a plurality of virtual operators as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Patel does not disclose that the wireless network is operated by a plurality of virtual operators and access to services provided by each of the virtual operators is supported by using multiprotocol label switching.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference.

Claim 11

Claim 11 recites subject matter analogous to claim 1, and therefore is allowable for at least the same or similar reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-10 and 16

Claims 1-10 and 16 depend from either claim 1 or 11, and therefore are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency and the additional limitations recited therein.

With further regard to claim 6, 7 and 9 the Examiner refers to the Service Devices 270 of FIG. 2 to disclose the features recited in these claims. However, there does not appear to be any disclosure or suggestion of the specific claimed limitations related to **authentication and**

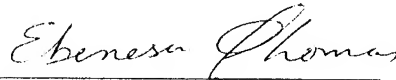
security such as mobile subscriber keys. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to point out where in Bender the specific features as recited in claims 6, 7 and 9 are disclosed. \

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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